



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Kitchen Cabinet Meeting Notes Lewis & Clark State Office Building, January 31, 2014 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Participants were welcomed by Leanne Tippet Mosby, as Sara Parker Pauley had been called away. Andrea Balkenbush went over the agenda for the meeting.

Natural Resource Damage

Tim Rielly gave a presentation, followed by discussion, on Natural Resource Damages and how participants can engage in future projects. Web link to Natural Resource Damage Assessment: <http://dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/sfund/nrda.htm>.

Facilitated Discussions

The facilitated discussion topics were identified from the All Kitchen Cabinet meeting in September 2013 and chosen by Environmental Kitchen Cabinet members through a survey.

Topic 1: Balancing Environmental and Economic Interests

Participants' thoughts and concerns on this topic included:

- Ammonia Limits: how these could impact wastewater treatment facilities (WWTF), and how increases in economic impacts could result in proposed legislation, possibly eliminating some environmental protections.
 - Economic impact.
 - Impact to water quality standards.
 - Potential loss of current water protections.
- Short-term economic interest versus long-term. Environmental protection and cost aren't an either/or choice, as long-term economic and environmental interests coincide.
- Full cost of natural resource pollution isn't being presented (e.g., the cost of asthma isn't being reported as a part of utility rates).
 - Fear that costs for point-source pollution rise above sustainable levels (e.g., ammonia limits).
 - Solutions need to be sustainable in communities.
 - There needs to be fairness between those who pay (regulated) versus those who don't pay (unregulated).
- Find additional tools and incentives for natural resource protections.
 - In the past, high costs were offset by incentives to attract investment in environmental protections. (e.g., scrubbers on facilities were installed using bonds approved by Congress, but this is now 30-year old technology. Also, in the Clean Water Act there was initial funding for infrastructure construction.)

- Find good partnerships (sometimes these may seem unlikely but have huge impacts).
 - Nutrient trading and protecting riparian areas may be an option.
 - Determine where we can best spend our dollars and get best return on investment. Incentives are disappearing.
 - There continues to be more that can be done on source pollution (e.g., scrubbers on power plant stacks).
- Acknowledge that air pollution comes from state and global sources.
- The balancing of environment and economics needs to be communicated better. (e.g., in urban areas, development of green space continues to show value in terms of increased property values in the surrounding area.)
 - Communicating this balance ties in with short and long term economic benefits.
 - Industry actions generally outweigh environmental protections and benefits.
 - We need to invest more in the environment for sustainability – recognize the damage done and address remedies.
- Continue to develop data to support our efforts to protect the environment.
- Continue to challenge the economic arguments when presented (e.g., city utilities landfill proposal on karst terrain – ultimate cleanup costs much higher than predicted savings).

How do we collectively address these issues?

- Better communicate the benefits of nature and the true cost of environmental issues.
 - The issues are now more nuanced than they were in the 1970s, and the laws to deal with them are “clunky.”
 - Need discussion among reasonable people on all sides to try and resolve issues. (Note: legislators may sometimes only hear one side of issue. Non-profits have to be careful of their tax exempt status which precludes lobbying.)
- Encourage the department to look into green trading as a tool and options (especially at the community level).
 - Seek out unique partnerships and points of commonality (e.g., tax codes and potential environmental benefits). Use examples to explain our views and influence others’ positions, instead of telling people our position.
- The Department should help promote companies that are being good environmental stewards (e.g., KCP&L buying wind power, alternate energy manufacturing companies).
 - Promote the number of jobs they support in Missouri (e.g., while losing the Chamois coal-fired power plant cost roughly 50 jobs, another Missouri company making solar components is employing 250 people).
 - Correlate their stewardship to their bottom line.

In the next three years, we need to:

Participants provided input on actions that our organizations could collectively pursue as it relates to the Balancing Environmental and Economic Interests discussion.

- Get better at talking about the value of nature and what it provides (e.g., The Nature Conservancy hiring economists).

- Encourage discussions of green credits or trading as strong tools to incentivize private environmental actions.
- Work at the local level, with chambers of commerce, cities, etc. highlighting actions by “good neighbors;” recognize that the trend to impact individual actions from the top down is not sustainable, as the public is pushing back against government actions.

Topic 2: Extreme Weather Events

Time didn't allow the group to discuss the second topic of extreme weather events. If you would like to provide comments about Missouri's extreme weather events please send an e-mail to Andrea Balkenbush at andrea.balkenbush@dnr.mo.gov.

Topic 3: Water Quality Standards

Time didn't allow the group to discuss the third topic of Water Quality Standards, a rule of the Missouri Clean Water Commission. A brief update was provided by Leanne Tippet Mosby. A more detailed update is provided below on the rule changes just completed and the next rule changes in development.

The Commission adopted an order of rulemaking for Missouri's Water Quality Standards regulation (10 CSR 20-7.031) at their November 6, 2013 meeting. The rule amendment applies presumptive “fishable/swimmable” Clean Water Act use designations to more than 90,000 miles of stream and 2,100 lakes, while also providing mechanisms for recognizing and managing exclusions to the presumptive uses. The rulemaking also provides the framework for adopting tiered aquatic habitat protection uses in the state, which will ensure appropriate levels of protection for the state's aquatic resources. The rule was published in the Missouri Register in January and became effective February 28, 2014. The department submitted the regulation to EPA for review and approval.

At the February Water Protection Forum, the Department initiated stakeholder discussion regarding a formal triennial review of state water quality standards as required by the federal Clean Water Act. Topics discussed included items previously disapproved by EPA (e.g., numeric nutrient criteria for lakes), items previously submitted to EPA but requiring further clarification for approval (e.g., revised sulfate and chloride criteria), new federal water quality criteria (e.g., ammonia and bacteria), existing federal criteria more stringent than currently in Table A of the Standards, Clean Water Commission Initiatives (e.g., wetlands classification) and additional revisions that clarify and increase the effectiveness of the rule. The Department is open to other topics anyone may wish to raise for consideration.

Department of Natural Resources 40th Anniversary

Renee Bungart provided a historical look at the last 40 years of the Department of Natural Resources and some highlights of how the Department will celebrate this anniversary during 2014. These will include a photo contest, an updated State of the Environment report for 2013 – 2014, videos and a timeline on the department's website and multiple events throughout the year.

Participant Updates

Missouri River Relief

- Hiring an education coordinator for outdoor programs.
- A “garbage barge” trip is planned for September – October.

The Nature Conservancy

- Focusing on fresh water conservation.
- 60th Anniversary in 2015.
- Leading an education initiative, which will begin in St. Louis. Their general education efforts are designed to raise environmental awareness and support for the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax.
- Looking to large river conservation, with their February meeting being hosted by chapters located along the Missouri River.
- Recently acquired several thousand acres along the Current River.

Missouri Stream Team Coalition

- Recently analyzed, compiled and reported 20 years of biological and chemical data collected by Missouri's Stream Teams, which is presented in a State of the Stream report.
- Celebrating their 25th Anniversary, with approximately 5,000 teams in operation, with 80,000 volunteers.
- Working with 18 watershed based stream teams to improve monitoring and supports stream team associations by allowing them to use the Coalition's 501(c)3 status when applying for grants.
- Clean Marina grant program in the Table Rock Lake area with 12 marinas participating.
- Advocacy is one goal of stream team program. The Coalition is getting deeper into that role, with a sign-on letter being supported by over 50 teams.
- Don't forget to get your Stream Team license plate!

Great Rivers Greenway

- Focusing on building greenways, with over 100 miles constructed and 17 miles in progress.
- Supporting and building greenways for about 10 years.
- Now focusing on building sustainability in operations and maintenance, public engagement and marketing.
- Supervising the City Arch redevelopment project.

Ozarks Water Watch

- Preparing for Water Watch Week in June, which will focus on celebrating clean water. Reach the public by engaging them through hikes and water activities and then educate them while they are there.
- Their third conference will focus on clean water, to be held June 11 at the Branson Convention Center in cooperation with the City of Branson.
- On-site SRF septic remediation system project has addressed over 100 failed septic systems.
- Would like to initiate a state-wide dialogue about septic inspections being conducted prior to transfer of real estate, as this is not currently required (e.g., one property at Table Rock Lake transferred without a septic inspection, and required \$40,000 worth of work to correct septic problems).
- Status of Watershed report being compiled.
- Weekly e-newsletter has about 1,100 subscribers and can be accessed on their website: ozarkswaterwatch.org.

Table Rock Lake Water Quality

- Preparing for their 13th annual lake shoreline clean up. Since 2001, this organization has removed more than 180 tons of trash and more than 2,800 tires from the lake area.
- Taneycomo lakeshore clean-up is now in its 5th year.
- Stormwater demonstration project at a Kimberling City shopping center involves replacing a 3-acre parking lot with pervious pavers, planting parking islands with trees and an on-site project studying various on-site systems. The group will present this project along with the EPA at a conference in New Orleans.

Missouri Parks Association

- Working where needed to defend and protect state parks.
- Missouri Parks Foundation finalized transfer of the property for Don Robinson State Park in the St. Louis area, which will open in a few years.

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks

- Celebrating their 30th Anniversary.
- Refining a new 319 project and updating a source water protection plan.
- Increased education and outreach efforts planned.
- Discussing daylighting of urban streams.
- Interfacing with the local food movement to ensure best management practices are used to assure water quality.
- Looking to make their organization more sustainable.

Conservation Federation of Missouri

- Has learned the importance of sustained public will - when the public pushes, no politician can long endure.
- Legislative appropriations looking as favorable as seen in last ten years.
- Recent Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Kansas City involved 14 states, over 900 attendees, including 300 students.
- Executive director interviews will be held on February 8.
- Convention will be held in Jefferson City on March 21 – 23.

James River Partnership

- Working with a 319 grant, Show-Me Farms and Ranches nutrient management planning for homeowners.
- Approximately 12 miles on the James River now under permanent easement.
- Conducting soil tests for homeowners.
- Septic pump-out program provided a \$50 rebate to about 1,800 properties in the last five years.
- Every 5th grader in Christian County will receive 5 hours of watershed education during the Watershed Festival in Nixa.
- Lake Springfield clean-up will be held on April 22 – last year over 120 people cleaned up over 1.5 tons of trash.
- June 7 – 15, the Partnership will hold its 16th River Rescue, which has removed between 5 – 7 tons of trash and over 200 tires.
- River Jam concert will be held June 14. This year's event will feature live music, boiled crawfish, potatoes and corn for \$8 per person.

- Storm drain reveal in May, where local artists paint storm drains in the downtown area. Requests for information on this program have been received from as far away as Hawaii and Alaska.

Missouri Coalition for the Environment

- In its 45th year.
- Working with Washington University on the Westlake landfill issue and appreciates their relationship with DNR.
- Still pushing renewable energy, revisions to water quality standards and has a focus on wetlands.
- Regarding wetlands, they are co-hosting a Watershed Cairns Exhibit at the Missouri History Museum from August 16, 2014 to February 8, 2015 to increase watershed awareness – more information is available at www.watershedcairns.com.
- Would like an update on standards for unclassified waters.
- Watching updates to the Clean Air Act's section 111D.
- New Food & Farm Program – conducting a food shed study, looking at nutritional values of types of food and reviewing food and farm policies.

Missouri Votes Conservation

- Looking for ways to support a broader coalition.
- Recently restructured their organization, adding a 501(c)4 component to address legislative issues. With culture, financial and political shifts since the 1970s, they're looking at a cross-sector coalition as potentially a more effective route. Seeking support for this direction.

Sierra Club

- Congratulations to DNR on acquiring Camp Zoe, located in the Current River watershed. Sierra Club volunteers assisted there on trail management projects last October.
- Comments due on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways proposed management plan on February 7 and can be submitted on the website.
- Recruiting potential air commission candidates.
- Clean Line Project is expected to move wind power across Missouri, doubling the wind energy in Missouri.
- Interested in the SO2 State Implementation Plan process, concerned that the process should look beyond the non-attainment buffer zones into buffer zones (sized 10,000 – 50,000) where larger emitters are located.

Division Updates

Each division provided updates. Links to new on-line programs are listed below.

Missouri State Parks

- Missouri named Best Trails State in 2013.
- For first time since 1990, MSP received general revenue (GR) for capital improvement projects - \$20 million, with about \$2.5 million spent so far, addressing needs in every state park and historic site. Requesting \$15 million GR in 2014 budget.
- Negotiating for construction of Nature School for 100 5th graders in Columbia Public Schools at Rock Bridge SP for nature place based learning – first in the nation to be located in a state park. Should be ready for 2015 school year, with no net environmental impact – located in former service area of park.
- Don Robinson State Park (near Eureka) now owned by state.

- Big Lake State Park being made more flood resistant.
- Camp Zoe, 330 acres, being made part of Current River State Park – a division top priority, as a place in the Ozarks for families to experience nature and the outdoors. Opening end of 2015 / spring of 2016 or sooner.
- Learn 2 programs in cooperation with North Face are well received, especially kayaking, the #2 outdoor sport.

Soil & Water Program

- 30th Anniversary of Parks, Soils & Water Sales Tax.
- Nutrient Tracking Tool now available: <http://nn.tarleton.edu/NTTWebARS/>.
- Edge of field monitoring allows a comparison of before and after best management practices.

Missouri Geologic Survey

- Just released geoscience on-line resource assessment tool, GeoSTRAT <http://dnr.mo.gov/geology/geostrat.htm>.
- Continue to consider new ways to evaluate Missouri's resources need strategies to meet increasing demands in the future.
- Continue to work with landfill siting process, with Missouri's process being one of the most prescriptive in U.S.
- Working on strategic vision teams to evaluate uses for science and technology.

Water Resources Center

- Addressing water quantity issues, coordinating and monitoring approximately 220 gages.
- Gages that had been discontinued at Akers (on Current River) and Buck Hollow (on Jack's Fork) are now back online, at no net cost to the State of Missouri.
- Monitoring ground water at 165 locations, where fluctuations / stress on the system can be measured.
- Emergency Action Plans being wrapped up for about 500 high-hazard dams, with inundation maps – may expand to low-hazard dams.
- Water use planning in northern Missouri - looking at water transmission from St. Joseph to Cameron / Maysville, where existing capacity is estimated at 1/3 of future demand.
- Sullivan and Caldwell Counties – proposed reservoirs, must support habitat needs downstream. On ecological flow task force with other agencies, such as used at Taum Sauk during FERC re-licensure process.
- USACE is assisting with water planning – a scoping process for water planning has been identified, now working on an agreement targeted for end of March.

Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority (EIERA)

- New business lines in development, such as managing contracts (only have 5 staff).
- Refinanced bonds - saved DNR state revolving fund (SRF) approximately \$5 million.
- Focusing on rural areas for Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund.
- Solid waste funding is a focus area for businesses using reclaimed materials.

Division of Environmental Quality

- On-line Long Term Stewardship Locator Map, <https://www.dnr.mo.gov/molts/> (underground storage tank sites not yet included).
- E-permitting implemented voluntarily for Electronic Discharge Monitoring Reports (EDMRs).

- Legislation – scrap tire fee expiring, must get renewed – saw buildup of scrap tires when fee expired for two years in the past community services efforts expanding SRF outreach, being more proactive, focused on smaller communities.
- Existing and new ammonia standards – EPA criteria expected out August 13, we'll be adopting these into Missouri's regulations.
- Considering working with Wichita State to assess communities' ability to sustain upgrades.
- Legislative interest in greenhouse gases, waiting for EPA rules, then do a state implementation plan (SIP) which takes at least three years in a very compressed timeframe. A bill has been filed to preclude cap and trade.
- Bridgeton air monitoring ongoing daily, although difficult in low temperatures. Quarry now capped, but odor problems continue. Republic dealing with leachate issues. One of DNR's most complex issues. If radioactive waste from adjacent Westlake Landfill is found to be mingled with landfill waste, will EPA take jurisdiction? (answer is yes) DNR working with EPA on Westlake.

Legislative Update

The department's new Legislative Director, Mary Mulhearn was introduced. Mary and Leanne Tippet Mosby provided an update on several bills that have been introduced in the General Assembly.

Our Missouri Waters Update

Jennifer Hoggatt gave an update on Our Missouri Waters (OMW).

- The 2014 watersheds are: (map provided at <http://dnr.mo.gov/omwi.htm>)
 - Salt Basin
 - Missouri River Corridor
 - Meramec Basin
 - Upper Mississippi / Cape Girardeau
 - Sac
 - Niangua
- OMW Coordinator Contacts:
 - Big River: Tracy Haag at tracy.haag@dnr.mo.gov or 314-416-2452.
 - Spring River: Gwenda Bassett at gwenda.bassett@dnr.mo.gov or 417-888-4046.
 - Lower Grand: Mary Culler at mary.culler@dnr.mo.gov or 660-385-8000.
 - Southeast Regional Watershed Coordinator: Travis Abernathy at travis.abernathy@dnr.mo.gov or 573-840-9750.
 - Kansas City Regional Watershed Coordinator: Andrea Smith at andrea.smith@dnr.mo.gov or 660-562-1877.